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Date: July 14, 2004
To: Examiner Cindy Nguyen
Company: USPTO, Art Unit 2171
Conflict:
From: Mark R. Kendrick
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Comments:
Applicant: Richard Qian
Serial No.: 09/821,319
Filing Date: March 29, 2001
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATIC
GENERATION OF SPORTING STATISTICS

Dear Examiner Cindy Nguyen:

Thank you for returning my phone call.

Representative claim 39 recites:

A method of automatic statistics generation and management, comprising:
receiving video input data of a game;
generating tracking information by tracking elements, including a player and a ball, in the video input data throughout a course of the game; and
generating in real-time semantic information based on the tracking information, without input from an operator, utilizing software applications which include rules and determine from the tracking information sporting statistics that are to be recorded for the game,
wherein the semantic information describes actions during the game that lead to consequences which are semantically significant in the game.

The Benson reference is cited as disclosing that software applications, which include rules, and determine from the tracking information sporting statistics that are to be recorded for the game. (Office Action, page 2). The Benson

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Comments (continued):

reference in columns 9 - 10 illustrate an event model of a sporting event, e.g., in this case a football game. The Benson reference discloses that the listed types of events are distinguished by the system. The listed types of events include 1) game, 2) half; 3) quarter; 4) play; 5) play event; 6) possession; and 7) score. This event information is listed in a memory. This structured video content viewing system is then described as utilizing this content model (or another content model) to aid in the selecting, browsing, and viewing of the structured video. Specifically, these models and associated meta-data, provide a set of viewing tools that utilize visual cues and navigational aids to access the video based on the content models. For instance, you could utilize the information in the Benson system to jump to the third play in second possession of the third quarter.

This is unlike the present invention which determines from the tracking information sporting statistics that are to be recorded for the game. These sporting statistics include 1) number of goals scored; 2) number of red cards issued; 3) number of penalty kicks performed; 4) graphical shot chart of goals scored during a game; 5) average ball possession time for each team or player; 6) percentage of time a player spends on offense v. defense; 7) average distance of a goal kick for a particular player; 8) maximum running speed of player in a game and average running speed of a player in a game; and 9) performance of players against specific other players.

In contrast, the Benson reference is disclosing the time indexing of events that are occurring within a sporting event. Specifically, each event is described from time and space models. Each of the events listed in column ten of the patent includes a start_frame and an end_frame parameter. Thus, a user of the Benson system can identify segments of interest based on the events that have been indexed and select for viewing the associated portions of the video stream associated with the segments of interest.

This is not generating sports statistics such as the statistics listed in the previous paragraph. For example, the Benson reference does not disclose that a number of penalty kicks or goals are calculated by the Benson system or that an average ball possession time for each player is calculated. Illustratively, for a score, the Benson reference discloses only the calculation of the start_frame and end_frame, the team that scored, and the type of score. However, there is no

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Comments (continued):

disclosure that a number of scores (e.g., goals) are calculated by the Benson reference because the Benson reference does not utilize this information (it only needs a description of the event and the start frame and the end frame).

Accordingly, it is respectfully suggested that the representative claim 39 distinguishes over the Benson reference, alone or in combination with the Davis reference, because the highlighted limitation is not met by the combination of the references. All of the other pending independent claims recite similar limitations as the highlighted limitation of claim 39.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that arise. Please let me know when we can schedule the Examiner's interview.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark F. Kendrick".

Mark F. Kendrick
Reg. No. 48,468
Attorney for Applicant

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